JACEK SIERADZAN
REASONS WHY SOCRATES WANTED TO DIE
FANATICISM, WISDOM, EUTHANASIA OR SUICIDE
(Summary)
Both in ancient sources and present-day commentaries we can find many evaluations of Socrates’ behavior in court. According to some researchers his behavior contributed towards his death sentence. The article presents a review of standpoints, and tries to answer the question, why did Socrates want to die? Some consider Socrates’ attitude as fanatical, others believe his stubbornness in court was suicidal. However, one seems certain: if he had not died a voluntary but violent death, he would not have become so interesting and would not have been considered a crucial figure in the history of philosophy. It seems that Socrates did not regard philosophy as an activity separated from life. He believed his methods of training your mind and reflecting upon a sense of life carried an important message: life is not the most precious value and you should not hold on to it at all costs.
Key words: Socrates, euthanasia, suicide, wisdom

AGNIESZKA RANISZEWSKA-WYRWA
SUICIDE IN THE VIEW OF CHRISTIAN ETHICS
AND ITS SOCIAL AND LEGAL CONSEQUENCES
(Summary)
The issue of suicide is almost as old as the history of mankind, as origins of suicide may date back to the time when man realised that he was not only able to take animals’ and other humans’ lives, but also that he could take his own life. While exploring the issue of suicide, researchers concentrate on its various aspects, rendering it possible to specify a few basic directions, in the scope of which analyses are conducted. Among them is the philosophic-theological direction which concentrates mainly on ontological basis of human existence, the possibility of having life at one’s own disposal, and possible moral assessment of self-destructive actions. Discussion concerning the issue of suicide has a very rich historical tradition, origins of which probably date as far back as the source of philosophic-theological reflection. The article presents the shaping of the relation of Christian ethics towards suicidal actions and the influence of moral assessment of such actions on the social and legal sanctions directed at people who committed suicide and their circles.
Key words: death, suicide, Christian ethics, morality, life
JOANNA SMAKULSKA
BOGUSŁAW WOLNIEWICZ’S STANDPOINT
ON THE ISSUE OF EUTHANASIA
(Summary)
In the article, the author discusses a Polish philosopher Bogusław Wolniewicz’s standpoint on the issue of euthanasia. On the one hand his standpoint is convergent with moral doctrine of the Church, particularly the Catholic Church, namely by acknowledging that the final criterion of ethical permissibility of a deed is individual conscience. On the other hand the standpoint differs in dissimilar spheres of values to which conscience refers: in Christian doctrine it is a sphere of definite final values set by God while in Bogusław Wolniewicz’s ethics it is a sphere of temporal personal dignity of man.
Key words: euthanasia, Boguslaw Wolniewicz, conscience, catholic ethics

TOBY ORD
THE SCOURGE: MORAL IMPLICATIONS OF NATURAL EMBRYO LOSS
(Summary)
It is often claimed that from the moment of conception embryos have the same moral status as adult humans. This claim plays a central role in many arguments against abortion, in vitro fertilization, and stem cell research. In the paper I show that this claim leads directly to an unexpected and unwelcome conclusion: that natural embryo loss is one of the greatest problems of our time and that we must do almost everything in our power to prevent it. I examine the responses available to those who hold that embryos have full moral status and conclude that they cannot avoid the force of this argument without giving up this key claim.
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Key words: embryo, in vitro fertilization (IVF), moral status, spontaneous abortion, stem cells

PAWEŁ NIERODKA
IS EUTHYPHRONICS THE ETHICS OF INTEREST?

(Summary)
Is it naive to declare for the ethics of conscience nowadays? Has the ethics of conscience lost its place in people’s lives? Has *daimonion*, mentioned by Socrates, vanished under cover of successive “values”? What happened to Socrates’ “inner voice”? Where in contemporary systems of values is the ethics of conscience? Maybe the ethics of conscience has been ousted by the ethics of interest? Questions about the ethics of conscience provoke considerations on the ethics of interest. The author of the article does that by referring to Józef Bańka’s philosophy – euthyphronics.

Key words: ethics of interest, euthyphronics, Józef Bańka

MIROSŁAW MINISZEWSKI
ARCHITECTURE OF EVIL IN HANNAH ARENDT’S CONCEPTIONS

(Summary)
The article reconstructs a dynamic process, presented by Hannah Arendt, which enables totalitarianism to appear. Using notions applied by the philosopher and connecting them in places where she does not do it, one can obtain quite a coherent political-philosophical conception where the starting point is a theoretical state of a proper republic which gradually falls apart, degenerates, and eventually becomes its exact opposite – a totalitarianism. A model is constructed showing theoretical possibility of transforming republican *agora* into the “hole of oblivion”, being synonymous with a Nazi death camp which, in turn, is the starting point of Hannah Arendt’s deliberations on evil. In the first place, the article reconstructs a conception of radical evil, and then moves to describe a change in the philosopher’s standpoint and her approach towards evil in its banal context. In spite of universally assumed interpretations which present the thesis of “banality of evil” as abandonment of the conception of “radical evil”, a proposal is formulated which states that the two notions and the philosopher’s theses connected with the notions are not opposed to each other, but they rather indicate that there exist limitations of understanding. In close relation to Hannah Arendt’s conceptions, an issue of “epiphanity of evil” is taken into consideration. Contrary to Cezary Wodziński’s proposal, the issue is presented on the basis of analytical procedures of Buddhist philosophy of “middle way”, in comparative context of, among others, Greek skepticism and Immanuel Kant’s philosophy. They allow to introduce the notion of “architecture of evil” which, applied towards Arendt’s conception, allows to relieve it both of a burden of
metaphysical speculation and of metaphorism and methodological insufficiency of the notion of evil in its banal context.

Key words: the hole of oblivion, banality of evil, middle way

GRZEGORZ ZIĄBSKI

SUBSTRUCTURES OF A NATION ACCORDING TO CARDINAL STEFAN WYSZYŃSKI

(Summary)
The article presents the view of Primate Stefan Wyszyński on the nation as a complex whole. The following substructures are discussed in outline: the human being, the man as a social being, a distinguished individual, and the family. Next, based on the homilies and public appearances of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, there are presented rights and obligations regarding the human being, as well as tasks the society and the state face to secure the family from the moral and legal point of view. The publications of the J. Lewandowski were used in the article.

Key words: nation, human being, family, Stefan Wyszyński

JAN RATAJCZAK

MIROSŁAW ZABIEROWSKI

THE SUBJECTIVITY IN SCIENCE AND HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGY

(Summary)
The article presents a new program of development of humanization of humanistic psychology. The essence of the program is founding psychological considerations on philosophical anthropology. Especially psychology should take into consideration relations between cognitive subjects and objects of their cognition. Thus, a new type of objectivity of cognition is needed as well as a new approach to communication problems.

Key words: humanistic psychology, philosophical anthropology, communication